Mr Francis Bacon spake first and made a motion against
mclosures and depopulation of towns and houses of husbandry.
He had perused, said he, the preambles of former statutes and
by them did see the inconveniences of the matter, being then
scarce out of the shell, to be now full ripened It might be
thought ill and very prejudicial to Lords that have inclosed
great grounds, and pulled down even -whole towns, and con-
verted them to sheep pastures , yet considering the increase of
people and benefit of the commonwealth, every man would
deem the revival of former moth-eaten laws in this point a
praiseworthy thing * I would be sorry,* quoth he, [c] to see
within this Kingdom that piece of Ovid's verse prove true,
tarn seges ubt Imafuit, so in England, instead of a town full of
people, nought but green fields, but a shepherd and a dog *

After Mr Bacon, Sir John Fortescue, the Chancellor of the
Exchequer, in like manner showed his opinion, and so moving
for a committee to consider of this motion, the House nominate
all members of the Privy Council, being members of this House,
all knights of the counties and all citizens of the cities returned
to this present Parliament, together with Sir Edward Hoby,
Mr Francis Bacon, Mr Nathaniel Bacon, Mr Finch, Mr.
Solicitor and divers others

This concluded, Mr Finch showing sundry great and
horrible abuses of idle and vagrant persons, greatly offensive
both to God and the world, and further the extreme and
miserable estate of the godly and honest sort of the poor
subjects of this realm, the matter is also referred to the same
committee

The Earl of Essex is now returned to Court but is already disquieted, keeps in, and goes not to the Parliament It is said that the Queen is not well pleased with him for his service at sea, wherein he might have done more than he did Moreover his proceedings towards Sir Walter Ralegh in calling his actions to public question before a council of war where by a full court he was found guilty of death is greatly mishled It is feared that the peace between the Earl of Essex and Sir Robert Cecil will burst out to terms of unkindness